

The MUSEBAQ: A comprehensive and modular instrument for assessing musical engagement

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Engagement with music is complex, influenced by numerous listener-related factors. We report here on the development of a modular instrument which assesses a diverse set of music engagement constructs. The MUSEBAQ can be administered in full, or by module as relevant for specific purposes. Evidence was obtained from over 3000 adults (aged 18-87) for its structure, validity and reliability. Module 1 (Musicianship) provides a brief assessment of formal and informal music knowledge and practice. Module 2 (Musical Capacity) measures emotional music sensitivity ($\alpha=.90$), listening sophistication ($\alpha=.76$), indifference to music ($\alpha=.59$), music memory and imagery ($\alpha=.81$) and personal commitment to music ($\alpha=.80$). Module 3 (Music Preferences) classifies preferences into six broad genres - rock or metal, classical, pop or easy listening, jazz, blues, country or folk, rap or hip/hop, dance or electronica. Online administration uses adaptive reasoning to selectively expand sub-genres, while minimizing time demands. Module 4 (Reasons for Music Use) assesses seven motivations for using music; musical transcendence ($\alpha=.90$), emotion regulation ($\alpha=.94$), social, music identity and expression ($\alpha=.90$), background ($\alpha=.80$), attention regulation ($\alpha=.69$), and physical ($\alpha=.71$). The comprehensiveness, yet flexibility, of the MUSEBAQ makes it an ideal questionnaire to use in research requiring a robust measure of music engagement